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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Date !	intered)	
(19) REPORT DOCUMENTATION I	PAGE	READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
RADCATR-79-315	ı	
4. TITLE (and Subtitle)	0.0	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED
DEVELOPMENT OF LOGOSCAN II.		Final Technical Kepart
DEVELOPMENT OF LOGOSCAN II		October 78 - August 1979
The state of the s		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(e) - 1 ······		N/A 8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)
Charles E. Byrne	· · · ·	7
John C./Byrne	( 4.5	F3Ø6Ø2-78-C-Ø361 4
Daniel J./Byrne		and the second second
PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
Logos Development Corporation/		(10) == 1
2 Low Avenue Middletown NY 10940		B1025
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS		21830416
Rome Air Development Center (IRDT)	11	December 1979
Griffiss AFB NY 13441	こ こり	13. NUMBER OF PAGES
		27
14 MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(If different	,	15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)
Same (16/3/8.	3 /	UNCLASSIFIED
Same	- 7	15. DECLASSIFICATION DOWNGRADING
(+11 M	* - / /	SCHEDULE
(J/J)Q	7.1	N/A
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)  Approved for public release; distrib	oution unlimited	N/A
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#### **EVALUATION**

The purpose of this effort was to test and evaluate the LOGOSCAN II Optical Character Reader System to assess its potential for conversion of free formatted multifont typeset Russian text to a computer processable format compatible with the Russian-English machine translation system at Foreign Technology Division (FTD).

LOGOSCAN II scanned 27 pages of Russian text supplied by FTD. The system scanned the text at approximately 30 characters per second with an error rate of 1.0 - 2.0%. The resultant study demonstrated that the scanning of Cyrillic text is feasible, and that the difficulties encountered in scanning are due to difficulties inherent in Cyrillic text.

LOGOSCAN II is currently not a production system. Further work in the areas of scanning speed, recognition accuracy and post editor programs to correct errors is needed for such a system.

John a Guillen

Project Engineer

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#### A. INTRODUCTION

The optical scanning of typeset Cyrillic text is perhaps the ultimate test of an OCR system's recognition algorithm. The problem divides logically into four parts:

- 1. recognizing the character boundaries;
- 2. differentiating the character from all others in a reference alphabet;
- 3. tracking a skewed line, and recognizing line boundaries;
- 4. selecting the correct reference alphabet from a set of possible reference alphabets.

The Logoscan II System solves all four of these problems.

#### B. SCOPE OF THIS STUDY

The Statement of Work for this contract states its objective to be the "testing and evaluation of the Logoscan II Optical Reader (OCR) System to assess its potential for conversion of free-formatted multifont typeset Russian text to a computer processable format compatible with the Russian-English machine translation at Foreign Technology Division (FTD)."

Twenty pages of the book:

#### Доклады

#### Академии Наук СССР

were selected as representative of the general problem and are the subject of the present report. The book contains five separate fonts, viz., three title fonts, one main corpus font, and a bibliographical font. Due to the limitations of time and funding, Logoscan II has been optimized on the main corpus font only. Although all five fonts were placed in its memory and were used during the scanning operation, no effort has been made to increase the accuracy rate of these other four fonts. They can, of course, be brought to the same level of accuracy as the main corpus font at a later time. There is no inherent problem in the fonts themselves, nor in Logoscan II's ability to handle them. The primary aim has been to demonstrate a capability to scan such text with an accuracy rate and speed which would be significantly more economical than current manual techniques.

#### C. EQUIPMENT USED IN THIS STUDY

Many off-the-shelf OCR units were available; however, the ECRM 4500 proved to have the best combination of light source (a laser) and paper moving mechanism. A Data General S130 Eclipse was selected as the computer which processes the scanner's raw video data. The selection criteria in this case were:

- (1) compatibility with existing Logoscan I programs; and
- ·(2) a micro-code language which allowed Logos engineers to optimize certain high frequency program loops.

Logos engineers supervised the building and testing of a special purpose interface to control the functions of the 4500, which bypassed the 4500's internal PDP8 computer. This interface used a DMA channel for rapid transfer of information from the ECRM to the DG.

The functions of the ECRM are all controlled by the S130 using an interrupt driven operating system.

Appendix D contains a detailed list of the equipment used during this study.

#### D. TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

The four problem areas stated above are detailed here:

#### 1. recognition of the character boundaries:

Since this book contains proportional spaced characters which are for the most part seraphed characters, a scanner operating at a 4 mil resolution frequently encounters touching characters. This would be true even at a 1 mil resolution, due to quality of certain sections of the typeset page (Page B1). The Logoscan II algorithm has been designed to search for clues as to the location of a boundary between touching characters even when they are proportionately spaced.

The upper and lower limits of a character, particularly when there are many ascenders and descenders (Page B4) are difficult to find. Line skewing compounds this problem. Once again, the algorithm because of its design can track a line and eliminate ascending or descending characters from contiguous lines.

It is this ability to define character boundaries in a proportionally spaced line, in the presence of noise, in a tight line spacing, and for in highly seraphed fonts that makes Logoscan II a fourth generation OCR device. The second characteristic which identifies the system as a new generation of OCR is its signature algorithm, viz., standard masking techniques are not used.

Characters such as the Russian H can be broken, that is, the two solid vertical strokes can appear to be two separate characters if the horizontal stroke is weak or missing. Logoscan II uses a hardware/software combination to solve this problem.

If the horizontal stroke is merely weak, good resolution will enable the system to see a stroke that might be missed with a less sensitive read head. To this end, Logos engineers modified the paper moving subsys em, i.e., the ECRM now has an effective resolution of 3 mils along the vertical axis of the page.

If the horizontal stroke is missing, however, Logoscan II relies on rules to examine areas around what looks like a piece of a character. If the system discovers a shape that, when added to the first piece, could be defined as a character, it will merge them and recognize a single character.

### 2. <u>differentiating the character from all others in a reference alphabet:</u>

The main corpus font contains unique characters, some of which look very similar to an OCR device, e.g., a Russian W and H. The method of signature analysis used by Logoscan II enables it to correctly differentiate such characters. The same character, such as a Russian W, when examined at different times during the scanning process, can vary (Page B7). The OCR must recognize every occurrence of this character correctly, even if it appears quite differently each time.

Characters can also vary from their normal appearance. This could be caused by pieces missing (usually seraphs) or noise that disguises the character's shape. The method of signature analysis used enables the system to differentiate between similar (but unique) characters, yet accurately identify characters, even if they vary in appearance.

Appendix C illustrates the system's processing of sub- and super-scripts.

#### line skewing and recognizing line boundaries:

Most OCR units introduce dynamic and static line skewing. This is caused by the paper transport system, or by the original positioning of text on the page. In addition, ascending and descending characters make the job of defining the boundaries of a line much more difficult (Page B4).

Logoscan II will read text that is dense, i.e., greater than 8 lines to the inch, with ascenders and descenders, and can track a line skewed by as much as one-half a line's height.

### 4. selecting the correct reference alphabet from a set of reference alphabets:

The five fonts noted above can appear on any page. The system tests a new line (if it was preceded by a blank line) against each font and selects the one having the lowest error count. Logoscan II can store in its main memory as many as ten such reference fonts. If more were needed, its secondary disk memory can be used and it could call in any number of secondary fonts.

Although the solutions to the above problems have been incorporated into Logoscan II software, there remains a set of problems related to the quality and content of the typeset page.

#### o Background Noise

As figure 4, Page B2, illustrates, the reverse side of a page shows through to the side being scanned. This background noise is general throughout the book used during this study. It cannot be eliminated, and its presence causes more than half of the errors experienced on any given page.

The thickness and quality of paper used in a book govern the degree of background noise. As the need and desirability to scan typeset material becomes more widely recognized, the problem of background noise could be largely eliminated by the proper selection of paper.

#### o Foreground Noise

Dirt, ink spots, and poor quality paper all introduce distortions to the character as seen by the laser light source. Figure 3, Page B2.0, shows the sort of foreground noise experienced in this book.

#### o Identical Characters

A Russian H and an English H are the same character in the main corpus font. Only a post-processor program examining the character in context can differentiate such pairs. Page A4 lists the combinations appearing in this book.

#### E. GENERAL METHODOLOGY

After interfacing the ECRM/S130 system, Logos personnel concentrated on two main areas:

#### 1. Recognition Speed

This activity required analysis of the Logoscan algorithms and supporting programs searching for high frequency loops that could be converted to S130 micro-code. Writing and debugging this code paralleled the second effort.

#### Recognition Accuracy

The five fonts were acquired and repeated testing of the main corpus font resulted in a fine tuned set of character signatures for this font. No such fine tuning was attempted on the other four fonts, nor were the Greek letters in the main corpus font optimized.

#### F. TECHNICAL RESULTS

The recognition speed on any given line is now 30 characters per second. The average recognition speed for a set of lines is 25 characters per second. This latter rate can be improved by foreground/background tasking of data acquisition and recognition at some later date.

The recognition accuracy for the main corpus font is now 98.6%. A high percentage of errors can be traced to the source document; although Logoscan II is designed to allow for wide variations within a character type, in this quality document, characters are sometimes so distorted as to be recognizable only in context.

#### G. IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The Logoscan II System is not now an operational system in a production environment. It could be made cost/effective for a number of Russian fonts with approximately three months of further effort, and it would be able to input any Russian font at a fraction of current keyboarding cost with nine months of further effort.

#### H. A PRODUCTION SYSTEM

Certain facts about Logoscan II in a production environment can be stated, and estimates of others are given below.

The system can read original pages or Xerox copies. Either way the preparatory work is about the same, viz.:

- 1. mark graphics as shown in Figure B5.
- align one edge of paper at right angles to a line on the page. This would not be required of a book typeset in this country, but it is required for the book used in this test.
- 3. feed the pages 50 at a time into the scanner's paper feed tray.

The preparatory work for 50 pages is approximately one man-hour.

#### Reject Rate

Rejection rate corresponds to approximately .9 times the error rate. That is, 9 out of 10 errors can be flagged as errors. When Logoscan II is completed the estimated error rate for all fonts will be between 1% and 2% for Cyrillic fonts. This spread is a function of the quality of the original document. It would be 1% for the book used in this study. Under these conditions there would be 22 flagged errors on a page, and given a good CRT editing system, they could be converted to correct characters in .041 man-hours.

#### Areas for Improvement

To achieve a full scale production system, certain new operational features would be required:

- 1. Additional special tests for problem characters.
- A second ECRM unit interfaced to the S130. This would allow parallel processing of two separate books.
- 3. Post-editor programs to correct errors automatically by examining them in context.
- 4. A well thought out CRT editing system for Russian text.

As noted, about nine months of effort would achieve these goals.

#### Resultant Cost

Such a complete production system could be achieved in nine months for approximately \$310,000, including all hardware,

software and manpower costs.

#### Comparative Cost

Without current keyboarding cost accounting figures, no comparison can be made of automated vs. manual techniques. However, an estimate can be made of the cost for a 2500 character page using the full scale production system. The cost to achieve an edited (therefore nearly error-free) 2500 character page are:

#### 1. System Costs:

Since the equipment will be user property after nine months, only monthly maintenance fees and power requirements are used as the basis for this estimate. In a one-shift, two-man operation approximately 800 such pages could be processed per day to the point where editors could begin correcting rejects. It would require 4.1 editing operators to correct rejects for these 800 pages. The system cost would be \$.036 per page.

#### 2. Manpower Costs:

As stated above, these 800 pages would require two operators and 4.1 editors per day, or .061 man-hours/page.

#### Appendix A

- Al Sample page from "ДОКЛАДЫ"
- A2 Output from Logoscan II
- A3 Russian-English Alphabet Map used by Logoscan II

#### Доклады Академии паук СССР 1976. Том 230, № 6

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ФИЗИЧЕСКАЯ ХИМИЯ

Член-корреспондент АН СССР Д. Г. КНОРРЕ, С. Г. ПОПОВ, Т. А. ЧИМИТОВА

# КИНЕТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ АФИННОЙ МОДИФИКАЦИИ БИОПОЛИМЕРОВ ДЛЯ РЕАКЦИЙ, ПРОТЕКАЮЩИХ С УЧАСТИЕМ АКТИВНЫХ ПРОМЕЖУТОЧНЫХ ЧАСТИЦ

Кинетические закономерности афинной модификации в настоящее время проанализированы для случая, когда реагент претерпевает превращение только находясь в комплексе с модифицируемым бинолимером за счет существенного возрастания констапты скорости взаимодействия реагирующей группы с модифицируемой группой биополимера в результате их пространственного сближения. В этом случае схема превращения записывается в виде

#### $E+X = EX \rightarrow EZ$

где Е — модифицируемый биополимер, X — афинный реагент, EX — комилекс биополимер — реагент, EZ — продукт модификации. При достаточном избытке реагента кинстика реакции описывается кинстическим уравнением для реакции первого порядка по биополимеру с кажущейся константой скорости, зависящей от концентрации реагента (1, 2). В работе (3) решение распространено на случай обратимой модификации, на случай, когда в процессе модификации биополимер проходит через несколько промежуточных состояний, и предложен приближенный метод решения для случая, когда концентрация биополимера величина того же порядка, что и концентрация реагента.

В настоящей работе рассматривается кинстика афинной модификации для случая, когда превращение реагента проходит через промежуточное образование активных частиц, причем образование этих частиц является лимитирующей стадией и в первом приближении не зависит от присутствия модифицируемого биополимера. С такими случаями приходится сталкиваться при фотоафинной модификации биополимеров, реагентами, содержащими азидную группу, когда лимитирующей стадией является превращеные азидной группы в бирадикал витрен (1) и при модификации производными ароматических 2-хлорэтиламинов, при которой лимитирующей стадней оказывается превращение 2-хлорэтиламиногруппы в реакционноснособный этилениммониевый катион (5). В этом случае образовавшиеся активные промежуточные частицы могут либо модифицировать биополимер, либо реагировать с молекулами растворителя и другими низкомолекулярными компонентами раствора. В принципе не исключена возможность и неспецифической модификации бионолимера. Для случая афинного (комплементарно-адресованного) алкилирования пукасиновых кислот производными олигонуклеотидов, несущими остаток ароматического 2-хлорэтиламина, показано, что неспецифическая модификация вне комплекса нуклепновая кислота - реагент происходит в незначительной степеви (\*). Для фотоафинных реагентов описаны случан значительной исспецифичной модификации биополимера (1).

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#### RUSSIAN-ENGLISH ALPHABET EQUIVALENTS

#### Lower Case

Russian	English	Russian	English
a	a	p	r
б	b	c	s
В	v	T	t
r	g	У	u
д	đ	Φ	f
е	е	×	x
ж	j	ц	q
3	Z	પ	Č
И	i	ш	W
й	1	Щ	5
к	k	ъ	7
л	1	ъ	6
М	m	ы	У
Н	n	Э	3
0	0	10	h
Π	p	я	4

#### Upper Case

Russian	English	Russian	English
Α	A	P	R
Б	В	С	S
В	v	${f T}$	T
Г	G	У	U
Д	D	Φ	F
E	E	X	X
ж	J	Ц	Q
3	${f z}$	Ч	Ċ
И	I	យ	W
Й	1	Щ	5
K	K	ъ	7
Л	L	Ъ	6
M	M	ы	Y
Н	N	<b>9</b>	3
0	0	Ю	H
П	P	Я	4

SPECIALS = @		>	<	#
ψ d η χ δ Å ξ β σ φ ζ ε ∞ π τ ε π (sus- κειτ)	± ≈ ≅ ~	M	W V	¾2 N2

### Characters with similar shapes in the Cyrillic and Roman alphabets

Lower Case		Upper Case	
Roman	Cyrillic	Roman	Cyrillic
y e r a p o c m x	y (u) e (e) r (g) a (a) p (r) o (o) c (s) m (m) x (x)	A B C E H K M O P T Y	A (A) B (V) C (S) E (E) H (N) K (K) M (M) O (O) P (R) T (T) Y (U)
		X	X(X)

Appendix B

A close study of the Russian word in Fig. 1 provides a good example of the difficulties in scanning this type of document and the methods employed by Logoscan II to overcome these difficulties.

## аддукты

Figure 1

Figure 2(A) is a "normal" character as seen by the scanner, i.e., positioned correctly in relation to the other characters, and not touching surrounding characters. The next three characters, "ДДУ", all contain descenders and all bleed into each other, Figure 2(B). The system first "pushes" the characters up, Figure 2(C), then makes a first effort at separation, Figure 2(D). The system then decides that this shape, Figure 2(D), is still two characters and separates them further, this time recognizing the character as "Д", Figure 2(E).

A B C D E

F G H

Figure 2

The procedure is repeated to define the next " $\mbox{$\mathbb{I}$}$ ", Figure 2(F), (G), (H). Note that processing is restarted from the original positioning of the characters. This is so that we can accurately track a line of text, even with skewing.

When scanning typeset material, the OCR will be presented with a variety of noise present on the page. This can be caused by ink splattered on the platen (Fig. 3 to left of characters) or impressions from the reverse side of the page (Fig. 4), or chips and pieces of type suspended between characters (Fig. 5).

где е₀ — н Интег учетом у получить для є

Figure 3

циала растворению поверхност близка к вели —0,15 в. Однан дования с прив

Figure 4

# признательность

Figure 5

For the above cases Logoscan II was able to correctly handle the difficulties (Figs. 6, 7, 8). However, in certain cases the noise was too severe, and the character was distorted (Fig. 9). Characters such as this represent 50% of the error rate.

.gde vO no Integr .ucetom ur poAucit6 v d14 s

olala rzstvore nih poverkhost blizka k vel -0.15 v. Odn dovani4 s priv

Figure 6

STATE OF THE STATE

Figure 7

V zaklhcenie avtory vyrajaht priznatelónostó M. G. Astafóevu za

Figure 8

ине хром и хром

Figure 9

### льзов

Figure 10

Characters formed by hot type can be deformed due to missing pieces. While this usually occurs as weak strokes, sometimes a chipped slug, or ink missing from a part of the slug, produces characters such as in Fig. 10.

Ascending and descending characters are major problems for OCR devices, particularly at 7.7 lines per inch. Difficult situations such as the one pictures in Fig. 11 can occur. The sequence, left parenths, super 6, right parenths, right parenths, is dangerously close to both the bottom portion of the Cyrillic " $\Phi$ " on the line above, and the top portion of the Cyrillic " $\Phi$ " on the line below. Logoscan II was able to handle areas like this because it can "track" a line of text and make decisions on what areas to examine.

г этом обр сульфоксидо эр, (6)). Ч: э не было и

Figure 11

To handle graphics Logoscan II requires that the operator draw a line to the left of the graphics area (Fig. 12). The system will then recognize this line as a delimiter and go to the next line of text. In the output, the system leaves proportional white space for insertion of graphics later (Fig. 13).

ся в хорошем соответствии с данными (\*). Кроме того для железа и пикеля наблю-710,4 и 855,6 эв. Эти значения  $E_{\rm cs}$  соответ- $+3 \times +2$ зенно (<sup>5</sup>). Cr 20312 и сущест- ${
m to}~E_{
m cs}$  для и пами и • металлииде Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. дение как 🚉 привевеличины эм слое на 20~30 Å кический ва хроме, тной темэлектродля окиснов хрома таль X13, Рис. 1. Линии 2р электронов хроведенных ма. I — хром, окисленный на воздухе при  $25^\circ$ ; 2 — сталь X13,  $2r/Cr_2O_3>$ окисленная на воздухе при 25° 1 присутхрома на юм позволяет выдвинуть модель поверх-

Figure 12

эздух (кислород) и сплав — электролит.

d4ts4 v xorowem sootvetstvii sdannymi (4). Krome togo dl4 jele3a i nike14 na61h-710,4 i 855,6 3v. 3ti 3naceni4 E6v sootvet-+3 i +2 venno (5). oni su5estko Esp d14 roa4 roami i t me metalliv vide Sg203. adenie kak Esv, priveof veliciny (8). riom sloe ria 20-30 @ etalliceski1 cto na xrome, natrol tem-# 3lektroki dl4 okis prior xpona -stal6 X13, edennyx ie SgJSg203> 1 prisut-

roma na m pozvol4et vyqvinut6 model6 poverxozdux (kislorod) i splav -3lektrolit.

Figure 13



# **CHPIX**

Figure 14

The sequence "b\*" (-Y\*- where \* represents any character) posed a special problem for Logoscan II if the character following the "b" bleeds into it (Fig. 14). Since Logoscan II looks for characters when presented with a group of touching characters, and the shape "b" is a legitimate Cyrillic character, the I portion might be taken as part of the next character.

This situation can only be corrected by post-processing using grammatical rules, which Logos plans to implement at a later date.

The printout below demonstrates how much a typeset character can vary. Each of the figures (A, B, C) is an image of what the read head "sees." The system has to identify each of these as the same character, despite the varying line thicknesses.

1,	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	
Д	В	C

Appendix C

Logoscan II is able to handle subscripts and superscripts as shown below:

#### INPUT:

пимися соединениями (13). Если полученные нами экспериментальные

#### **OUTPUT:**

Simis4 soedineni4mi (13). Esli polHevnye nami 3kspemimevtal6vye

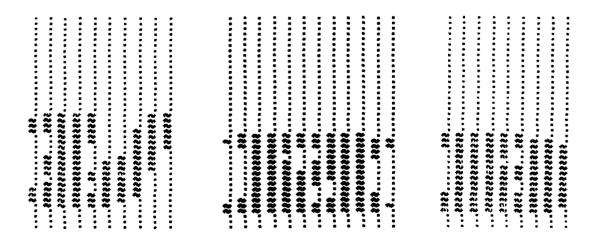
#### INPUT:

турой типа флюорита общей формулы Nd<sub>1-x</sub>Te<sub>x</sub>O<sub>1+x</sub>F<sub>1-x</sub>. Они сущест

#### **OUTPUT:**

turol tipa flhorita ob5el formuly Nd1-xTexO1+xF1-x. Oni su5est

Superscripts and subscripts are somewhat more difficult than normal characters in the main corpus font because of their lack of definition. The three pictures below are subscripts as seen by the scanner at 3 by 4 mils resolution.



Appendix D

#### DATA GENERAL

ITEM	QTY	DESCRIPTION
		HARDWARE:
		CPU and Related Items
DG/8611-I	1	Eclipse S/130 computer with 64KB MOS memory, battery backup and ERCC
DG/8615 DG/8614 DG/1012P	1 1 1	Writable control store Character Instruction Set One-bay cabinet (240V @ 50A)
		Console, Editing Terminals and Related Items
DG/4075 DG/4078 DG/6052-D DG/6086 DG/4079	2 2 1 1	
		Disc Subsystem and Related Items
DG/6070	1	20 Mbyte DGC Cartridge Disc Subsystem, (10 fixed, 10 removable) includes cartridge.
		Interface
DG/ECRM4500	1	Direct memory access: DG/8611-I and ECRM/4500 Control: DG/8611-I and ECRM/4500
		SOFTWARE:
		Eclipse Stand-Alone Operating System, Assembler, Macro-Assembler, Fortrain IV, Basic Algol Compilers and System Utilities
		Eclipse RDOS Operating System Assembler, Macro Assembler Fortran IV, Basic Algol Compilers, Sort/Merge, CSP & System Utilities
		Eclipse RTOS Real Time Operating System
		Eclipse Operating System for Eclipse Series
		Diagnostic Operating System for Peripherals

ECRM

<u>ITEM</u> <u>QTY</u>

DESCRIPTION

HARDWARE:

ECRM/4500 1 4000 Series Autoreader